



Feature: Pilot

AIRPLANE/AIRCRAFT PILOT

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The U.S. Customs Service is America's oldest Federal law enforcement agency with a proud tradition of protecting our borders for over 200 years. Today, one of our most important roles is stopping illegal drugs from entering our nation, keeping them off our streets, and out of our schools.

As a U.S. Customs Pilot, the responsibility for detecting intruders into U.S. airspace is yours. You'll play a critical role in stopping drugs from entering the United States.

We need pilots who want to do more with their skills than just fly back and forth between airports every day -- we need aviators who want a more unique challenge full of excitement and variety.

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YOUR MISSION: DETECT AND PROTECT

Imagine commanding a jet aircraft in a rugged isolated area along the U.S. border. Using sophisticated radar and sensor equipment, your crew detects an unexpected aircraft hugging the terrain as it crosses the border. Suspicious, you, along with colleagues responding to your call for assistance, pursue the plane for several hours. When it finally lands in a remote strip, specially equipped interdiction airplanes and helicopters swoop in. You and your team quickly engage the drug smuggler and his ground team. This day's work netted three arrests and the seizure of an airplane, a truck, and 500 kilograms of cocaine!

AVIATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CHALLENGE

From one of many aviation branches spread across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, you will be part of a vast team of aviators responsible for detecting and pursuing aircraft illegally intruding into U.S. airspace.

Frontline aviation careers with the U.S. Customs Service combine two exciting and challenging professions: aviation and law enforcement. A wide variety of single-engine, multi-engine, and rotary aircraft make up the Customs fleet including C-550 Citations, Piper Cheyennes, AS350's, UH-60 Blackhawks, C206/210's and B-200/C-12's.



From hour to hour, day to day, you may find yourself assigned to a variety of challenges, from patrolling the border and assisting in the pursuit of suspects to providing critical support services required by fellow law enforcement agencies. In your drug enforcement role you may find yourself moving from the relatively safe confines of an airplane one minute, to the risks involved in a tactical ground operation the next. The hours are sometimes long and irregular, but the rewards are beyond compare.

QUALIFY FOR A CUSTOMS CAREER

Candidates for Customs pilot positions must have a current FAA commercial pilots' license with the appropriate rating, a minimum of 1500 flight hours, a current FAA Class II medical certification, be under the age of 37 and be able to successfully complete a background investigation and drug test.



Sixteen weeks of specialized training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, GA is required, and all pilots must earn and maintain firearms qualifications during their careers.

In addition to pilot positions, we have opportunities for Aviation Enforcement Officers (AEOs). AEOs serve as primary law enforcement officers on Customs interdiction aircraft, and must be able to perform warrant and arrest, surveillance, intelligence, and communications duties. AEO candidates must have 3 years of general experience or a Bachelor's degree. A physical examination is required, as well as a background investigation and drug test.



